

Message Text

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG MEETING OF
JULY 19, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT ITS JULY 19 MEETING, CHAIRED
BY BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN), THE AHG CONSIDERED AND
TENTATIVELY APPROVED PART ONE OF THE FINAL AHG REPORT
TO NAC, WHICH CONTAINS THE GROUP'S ANALYSIS AND
ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE VIENNA
NEGOTIATIONS (TEXT MBFR VIENNA 0185). THE AHG
DEFERRED UNTIL ITS NEXT MEETING, ON JULY 22, A
DISCUSSION OF PART TWO, WHICH CONTAINS REQUESTS FOR
AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING COUNCIL GUIDANCE.

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THE AGH HEARD REPORTS OF BILATERALS WITH ROMANIAN REP

(ANINOIU) (SEPTTEL), SOVIET DELOFF (SHUSTOV) (SEPTTEL) AND GDR REP OESER, AS WELL AS A REPORT ON POLISH REP STRULAK'S JULY 17 PRESS CONFERENCE (MBFR VIENNA 180). US ACTING REP (DEAN) REPORTED THE EXTREME IRRITATION OF THE SOVIET REP REGARDING A REUTERS DISPATCH REVEALING EASTERN PROPOSALS ADVANCED IN INFORMAL SESSIONS. NOTING THAT THE LEAK APPEARED TO HAVE COME FROM WESTERN SOURCES, US ACTING REP URGED ALL DELEGATIONS TO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION IN DEALING WITH THE PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. UK REP (ROSE) CIRCULATED A REPORT OF HIS JULY 16 BILATERAL BRIEFING OF ROMANIAN REP (ANINOIU) ON THE LAST FOUR INFORMAL SESSIONS (TEXT MBFR VIENNA 183). ROSE DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE GROUP TO THE PARAGRAPH OF HIS REPORT IN WHICH ANINOIU EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE WESTERN PHASED APPROACH EVENTUALLY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST, BUT THAT THE WEST WOULD HAVE TO GIVE CLEARER DETAILS REGARDING THE TIME OF REDUCTIONS. NOTING THAT THIS WAS A CHANGE FROM WHAT ANINOIU HAD SAID ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, ROSE SAID HE DID NOT TAKE THIS NEW OPTION SERIOUSLY.

3. UK DEPREP (GOODALL) CIRCULATED A REPORT OF HIS JULY 17 BILATERAL MEETING WITH SOVIET DELOFF SHUSTOV (TEXT IN MBFR VIENNA 0184). GOODALL SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS REPORT WAS TO RECORD SHUSTOV'S EXPLANATION THAT SOVIET REP KHLESTOV HAD REFERRED IN HIS JULY 17 PLENARY STATEMENT TO THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER, WHICH THE WEST HAD MADE ONLY IN INFORMAL SESSION, BECUASE THE EAST HAD WANTED FORMALLY TO RECORD ITS REJECTION OF THE ALLIED OFFER.

4. FRG ACTING REP (HOFMANN) REPORTED ON A JULY 18 BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN FRG REP (BEHREND) AND GDR REP (OESER), IN WHICH BEHREND TOLD OESER THAT IT WAS UNWISE FOR THE EAST TO TAKE UP AND CRITICIZE IN PLENARY SESSION A POINT MADE BY THE WEST ONLY IN INFORMAL SESSION. OESER REPLIED THAT THE ONLY THING THAT WAS NEW ABOUT THE WEST'S "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER WAS THAT NOW THE UK WAS INCLUDED; ALL OTHER

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WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS PREVIOUSLY HAD INDICATED UNILATERALLY THAT THEY WOULD TAKE REDUCTIONS.

EASTERN PRESS STATEMENT

5. US DEL DISTRIBUTED THE TEXT OF POLISH RP STRULAK'S JULY 17 PRESS STATEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT QUESTION AND ANSWERS (MBFR VIENNA 180 AND 181). US DEL PRESS

OFFICER (HOLZAPFEL) REPORTED THAT STRULAK HAD BEEN MORE AT EASE THAN AT HIS PAST PRESS BRIEFINGS. STRULAK HAD RECITED THE TRADITIONAL CRITICISMS OF THE WESTERN APPROACH AND VIRTUES OF THE EASTERN APPROACH. HOLZAPFEL NOTED THAT STRULAK'S STATEMENT HAD NOT BEEN ENTIRELY NEGATIVE, SINCE IT RECOGNIZED THAT THE WEST WAS MAKING EFFORTS TOWARD PROGRESS; DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, STRULAK GRUDGINGLY ADMITTED TO SOME WESTERN FLEXIBILITY. HOLZAPFEL REPORTED THE REACTION OF THE WESTERN PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ALLIED PRESS BRIEFING HAD BEEN MORE INFORMATIVE.

AHG CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT

6. US DEL CIRCULATED A DRAFT OF AHG CHAIRMAN'S WEEKLY REPORT FOR WEEK OF 8-14 JULY. AHG APPROVED THE REPORT (TEXT SEPTEL) AFTER MAKING MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES.

FINAL AD HOC GROUP REPORT TO NAC

7. US AND UK DELS RESPECTIVELY DISTRIBUTED DRAFT TEXTS OF PARTS ONE AND TWO OF THE FINAL AHG REPORT OF NAC. DISCUSSION OF PART TWO, CONTAINING REQUESTS FOR AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING COUNCIL GUIDANCE, WAS DEFERRED UNTIL THE NEXT AHG MEETING ON JULY 22. GROUP APPROVED PART ONE, COVERING THE CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS (TEXT - MBFR VIENNA 185), ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT PART ONE COULD BE REOPENED, IF NECESSARY, IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSION REGARDING PART TWO.

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PRESS LEAK

8. US ACTING REP (DEAN) INFORMED THE GOURP THAT BEFORE THE JULY 18 PLENARY, SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) AND DEPREP (SMIRNOVSKY) TOLD US REP AND DEPREP THAT THEY WERE EXTREMELY IRRITATED BY A REUTERS DISPATCH BY SIDNEY WEILAND CONTAINING INFORMATION REGARDING THE EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL DRAWN FROM THE CONTENT OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. (SEE MBFR VIENN 175 FOR UK REP'S EARLIER DESCRIPTION OF THE WHELAN REPORT). DEAN STATED THAT THE DEGREE OF DETAIL IN THE TEXT INDICATED THAT IT WAS TAKEN FROM THE WESTERN ACCOUNT OF QUARLES' SUMMARY OF EASTERN AND WESTERN POSITIONS DURING THE JULY 10 INFORMAL SESSION. THE DISPATCH HAD ALSO CLAIMED TO BE BASED ON A NATO SOURCE. DEAN THOUGHT IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE

THAT IT WOULD BE TO THE EAST'S ADVANTAGE TO LEAK THIS INFORMATION, GIVEN KHLESTOV'S REMARK THAT HE WAS EMBARRASSED AT HAVING THE EASTERN INFORMAL POSITION REPORTED TO EAST EUROPEAN CAPITALS BY THE PRESS. DEAN SAID THAT SUCH LEAKS WERE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AND URGED ALL DELEGATIONS TO USE EXTREME CARE IN DISCUSSING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRESS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY HAD BEEN LITERALLY ENRAGED, AND THAT APPEARANCE OF THE INFORMAL EAST-WEST DISCUSSION IN THE PRESS WILL NOT CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. BELGIAN REP, AS THE AHG CHAIRMAN, STRONGLY SUPPORTED US ACTING REP'S REMARKS. RESOR

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